Sunday October 02, 2022
Faith and Science
Part 5: Origin of the Species

Sun Sep 04: Can Science Explain It All?
Sun Sep 11: The Six Days of Genesis
Sun Sep 18: Origins of the Cosmos
Sun Sep 25: Creator God?

Today: Origin of the Species

The big question that we desire to have answered is how did life on earth start? More specifically, how did we humans begin to live on earth? Where did we come from? There is the mystery of the origin of life, for which we seek answers.

To provide an answer to this question, like the Big Bang theory, modern evolution theory seems to be a notion that is widely embraced.

Does scientific evidence actually point to evolution instead of creation?

How do we respond to modern evolution theory?

Much of this information is being taught in schools and colleges.

MODERN EVOLUTION THEORY – A BRIEF

The **heterotrophic theory** (heterotroph is an organism deriving its nutritional requirements from complex organic substances) concerning the origin of life, was proposed in the mid to late 1920s. Things begin with the **Primordial soup** (also known as **prebiotic soup** or prebiotic broth) is the hypothetical set of conditions present on the Earth around 3.7 to 4.0 billion years ago. According to the theory, simple organic compounds ("monomers"), and later more complex organic compounds ("polymers") essential for life forms were synthesized in the primitive Earth under prebiotic conditions. The mixture of inorganic and organic compounds with water on the primitive Earth became the **prebiotic or primordial soup**. Then the **Ribonucleic acid (RNA)** the single-stranded molecule with a backbone made of alternating phosphate groups and the sugar ribose was formed. This eventually led to the formation of the **Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA)**, the amazing polymer composed of two polynucleotide chains that coil around each other to form a double helix carrying genetic instructions for the development, functioning, growth and reproduction of all known organisms. The

DNA acquired replication mechanisms, and eventually life originated. The first forms of life were able to use the organic molecules to survive and reproduce (heterotrophs).

The first life forms were **microbes**. Microbes are just single cells with no organelles and no nuclei to package their DNA. Microbes somehow organized themselves into complex cells ("eukaryotic cells") that acquired specialized parts playing specialized roles that supported the whole cell. These cells then began grouping together. Groups of cells began specializing and developed ability for certain functions, e.g. make enzymes, etc. These clusters of specialized, cooperating cells eventually became the first animals, which supposedly evolved around 800 million years ago. Sponges were among the earliest animals.

3.7 billion years ago: First life forms, microbes (microscopic organisms)
2.4 billion years ago: cyanobacteria evolved (bacteria capable of photosynthesis), these microbes were photo-synthesizers resulting in a Great Oxidation Event which changed earth's environment from being high in methane to now having large amounts of oxygen.
800 million years ago: Multicellular life gave rise to the first animals, e.g. sponges
580 million years ago: known as the Ediacaran Period saw proliferation of other organisms
541 million years ago: most of the Ediacaran creatures disappeared
541-485 million years ago: Cambrian Period, a wild explosion of new life forms. Along came animals with burrowing lifestyles, hard body parts like shells and spines, more active animals, with heads and tails, ability to chase prey, active feeding, etc.

Hence, modern evolution theory draws a storyline from microbes (or microorganisms) cells without nuclei (prokaryotes, such as bacteria and blue-green algae), to cells with nuclei (eukaryotes, or 'true cells', such as plants, animals, and fungi), to multi-cellular life, to invertebrates (animals without backbones), then vertebrates (animals with backbones), fish and amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds, primates and other mammals, apes and other primates and humans as we know today.

Modern evolution theory draws its support based on scientific studies and research across many disciplines. Often this theory is presented as a universal philosophy of life, rather than a mere scientific theory.

CHALLENGES TO MODERN EVOLUTION THEORY

Evolutionary biology presents characteristics of living organisms in an evolutionary perspective. A modern biologist will specify at least three such properties.

- First, an organism has a biochemical metabolism.
- Second, it reproduces itself by transmitting genetic information to its descendants.
- Third, these descendants may differ from their parent because mutations and recombinations can occur in the transmitted genetic information.

While there are several unanswered questions in modern evolution theory, we present a few of these here for us to consider.

Q1: WAS THERE A TRANSITION FROM PREBIOTIC TO BIOTIC LIFE? HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

Despite progress in scientific experimentation, until now no biologist could experimentally reconstruct the historical origin of the first life form on Earth. It is even probable that we will never be able to simulate the real history of the transition from the nonliving to the living on primitive Earth. Because there are so many possibilities of how to combine all the compounds that are necessary for the spontaneous assembly of the first self-replicating macromolecule, it seems to be a priori very improbable that they all came together in the right concentration at the same place and at the same time.

If life originated in such an extraordinary moment of absolute randomness, causing transition from prebiotic to biotic evolution, from non-life to life, how did a set of chemical compounds self-organize into a self-replicating system of macromolecules?

The Law of biogenesis: Spontaneous generation (the emergence of life from nonliving matter) has never been observed. All observations have shown that life comes only from life. This has been observed so consistently it is called the law of biogenesis. The theory of evolution conflicts with this scientific law when claiming that life came from nonliving matter through natural processes.

The probability of life originating from a prebiotic soup of organic matter, is as plausible as a hurricane blowing through a computer hardware store resulting in the assembly of a Boeing 747.

Q2: WHERE DID INTELLIGENCE FOR GENETIC INFORMATION PROCESSING COME FROM?

Lipids, proteins, carbohydrates, and nucleic acids (RNA, DNA) constitute the four major macromolecules essential for all known forms of life. In evolutionary biology we must

assume that the **origin of genetic information** is identical to the origin of life. The origin of life is nothing other than nature's first discovery of information processing via codes, that is, the evolutionary establishment of a primeval language. Molecular genetics describes inheritance as a complicated dynamic of storing, transmitting, processing, and transforming information where DNA acts as the material carrier of genetic information from parents to offspring.

The big question is where did this intelligence for genetic information processing come from?

AGTCTGGGACGCGCCGCCGCCATGATCATCCCTGTACGCTGCTTCACTTGT
GGCAAGATCGTCGGCAACAAGTGGGAGGCTTACCTGGGGCTGCTGCAGGC
CGAGTACACCGAGGGGTGAGGCGCGGGCCGGGGCTAGGGGCTGAGTCCGC
CGTGGGGCGCGGGCCGGGGCTGGGGGCTGAGTCCGCCCTGGGGTGCGCGC
CGGGGCGGGAGGCGCAGCGCTGCCTGAGGCCAGCGCCCCATGAGCAGCT
TCAGGCCCGGCTTCTCCAGCCCCGCTCTGTGATCTGCTTTCGGGAGAACC

Genetic code for RNA

01010111011010000110010101101110001000000110100101
10111000100000011101000110100001100101001000000010
00011011011110111010101110010011100110110010100010
00000110111101100110001000000110100001110101011011
01011000010110111000100000011001010111011001100010
10110111001110100011100110010000001101001011101000

ASCII Code

This string of characters is not just a random assortment of the four letters A, T, G, and C, but a representation of part of the sequence of genetic assembly (genetic code) instructions for building a protein machine—an RNA polymerase.

The next image of binary characters are the first words of the Declaration of Independence ("*When in the course of human events…*") written in binary ASCII Code. (American Standard Code for Information Interchange Code).

Though these two blocks of encoded information employ different conventions (one uses the genetic code, the other the ASCII code), both are complex, nonrepeating sequences that are highly specified relative to the functional or communication requirements that they perform.

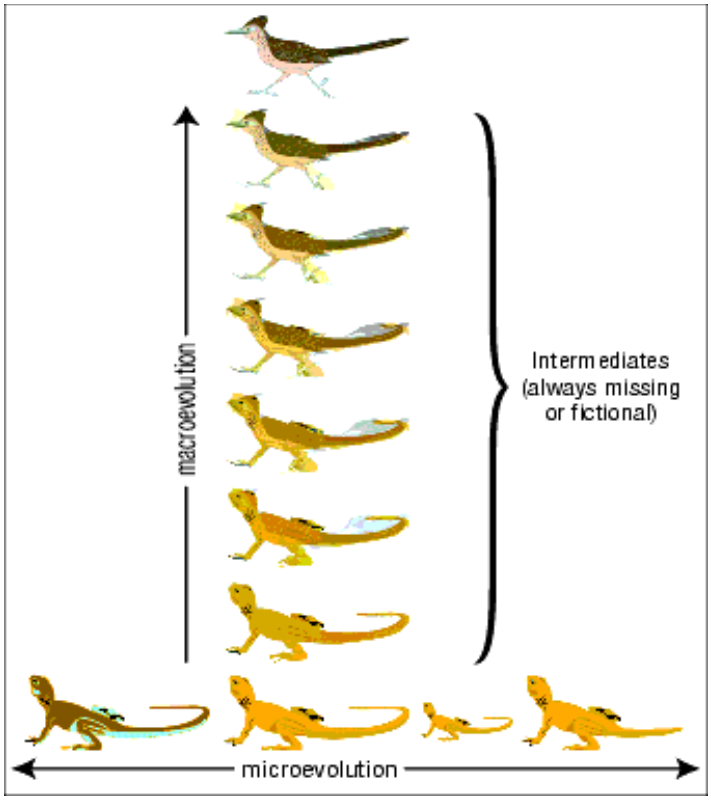
How do chemicals arrange themselves to produce code, information, and intelligence? Since, we know from experience, that information arises from an intelligent source, and hence the information in DNA simply points to an Intelligent Cause, just as the code, points to a programmer.

These molecules necessary for life, such as DNA, RNA, and proteins, are incredibly complex—so complex that claims they have evolved are absurd. Furthermore, those claims lack experimental support.

Q3: HAS MACROEVOLUTION EVER BEEN OBSERVED THROUGH NATURAL SELECTION OR MUTATIONS OR OTHERWISE?

Organic evolution, as theorized, is a naturally occurring, beneficial change that produces increasing and inheritable complexity. Increased complexity would be shown if the offspring of one form of life had a different and improved set of vital organs. This is sometimes called the molecules-to-man theory—or macroevolution. Microevolution, on the other hand, does not involve increasing complexity. It involves changes only in size, shape, or color, or minor genetic alterations caused by one or more mutations. Each example of macroevolution would require thousands of "just right" mutations. Microevolution can be thought of as horizontal (or even downward) change, whereas macroevolution, if it were ever observed, would involve an upward, beneficial change in complexity.

Example: Reptile to birds



Another example:
Dog Variability. When bred for certain traits, dogs become different and distinctive. This is a common example of microevolution—changes in size, shape, and color—or minor genetic alterations. It is not macroevolution: an upward, beneficial increase in complexity, as evolutionists claim happened billions of times between bacteria and man. Macroevolution has never been observed in any breeding experiment.

While **natural selection** occurred, nothing evolved; in fact, some biological diversity was lost. The variations Darwin observed among finches on different Galapagos Islands are another example of natural selection producing micro- (not macro-) evolution. While natural selection sometimes explains the survival of the fittest, it does not explain the origin of the fittest. Today, some people think that because natural selection occurs, evolution must be correct. Actually, natural selection prevents major evolutionary changes. It deletes information; it cannot create information.

Mutations are the only known means by which new genetic material becomes available for possible evolution into new traits. Rarely, if ever, is a mutation beneficial to an organism in its natural environment. Almost all observable mutations are harmful; some are meaningless; many are lethal. No known mutation has ever produced a form of life

having greater complexity and viability than its ancestors. Dr. John Sanford has shown that mutations occur at such a rapid rate that “mutational meltdown” would have occurred if humans were only 100,000 years old. “Genetic entropy” is pushing mankind toward extinction.

There is no reason to believe that **mutations or any natural process could ever produce any new organs—especially those as complex as the eye, ear, or brain.** For example, an adult human brain contains over 10^14 (a hundred thousand billion) electrical connections, more than all the soldered electrical connections in the world. The human heart, a ten-ounce pump that can operate without maintenance or lubrication for about 75 years, is another engineering marvel.

Microbes-to-mankind evolution requires the formation of new, complex, information-laden suites of genes containing the instructions for making, for example, muscle cells, bone, nerves, feathers on reptiles, etc., where none existed before.

Change is not evolution

Therefore, microevolution plus time will not produce macroevolution.
Macroevolution ≠ Microevolution + time
Big Change ≠ Small Change x Millions of Years

This is a logical fallacy known as equivocation, or bait-and-switch. It is akin to saying “because a cow can jump over a fence, it is only a matter of time and practice for it to jump over the moon”.

Evolution is not just ‘change’. It is not merely changes in trait prevalence (allele frequency) in a population. It also must entail the origin of radically new traits that are not just modifications to existing ones. This has never been shown to have happened.

Q4: EVOLUTIONARY ASSUMPTIONS AND BIG GAPS IN EVOLUTIONARY PROCESSES REMAIN UNEXPLAINED

There are numerous assumptions, probable events, that are part of the evolution theory of the origin of life. In evolution theory, in numerous steps along the way, we would read statements like:
"...it is possible that..."
"..are believed to have..."
"...supposedly evolved..."
"...somehow organized themselves..."

Such evolutionary assumptions and gaps actually require a “leap of faith”.

While the list of gaps and unexplained transitions is long, consider a simple example, of **sexual reproduction, a key step in the evolution process**. Sexual reproduction, which involves the fusion of male and female reproductive cells (gametes) to create a zygote in a process called fertilization is, in contrast to asexual reproduction. The origin and evolution of sexual reproduction remains a puzzle for biologists.

Q5: FOSSIL GAPS HAVE MISSING CHAINS

If evolution happened, the fossil record should show continuous and gradual changes from the bottom to the top layers. Actually, many gaps or discontinuities appear throughout the fossil record. At the most fundamental level, a big gap exists between forms of life, the cells without nuclei (prokaryotes, such as bacteria and blue-green algae) and cells that have nuclei (eukaryotes, such as plants, animals, and fungi). Fossil links are also missing between large groupings of plants, between single-celled forms of life and invertebrates (animals without backbones), among insects, between invertebrates and vertebrates (animals with backbones), between fish and amphibians, between amphibians and reptiles, between reptiles and mammals, between reptiles and birds, between primates and other mammals, and between apes and other primates. In fact, chains (numerous connecting links) are missing, not just links. The fossil record has been studied so thoroughly that it is safe to conclude that these gaps are real; they will never be filled.

Q6: DOES SIMILARITY POINT TO A COMMON ANCESTOR OR COMMON CREATOR-DESIGNER?

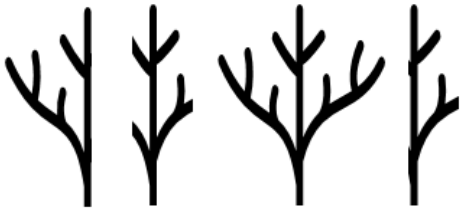
Evolution theory states that the similarities between all present-day organisms imply a common ancestor from which all known species, living and extinct, have diverged.
This is an assumption.

Mendel’s Laws: Mendel’s laws of genetics and their modern-day refinements explain almost all physical variations occurring within species. Mendel discovered that genes (units of heredity) are merely reshuffled from one generation to another. Different combinations are formed, not different genes. The different combinations produce many variations within each kind of life, as in the dog family. A logical consequence of Mendel’s laws is that there are limits to such variation. Breeding experiments and common observations also confirm these boundaries.

Furthermore, it is illogical to maintain that similarities between different forms of life always imply a common ancestor such similarities may imply a common designer and show efficient design. In fact, where similar structures are known to be controlled by different genes or are developed from different parts of embryos a common designer is a much more likely explanation than evolution.

Morphology

EVOLUTION
Evolutionary tree, which postulates that all species have descended from one common ancestor



Morphology

CREATION
Diversity has occurred with time within the original 'kinds' created by God

What if we point to a common Creator-Designer instead of a common ancestor?

Was life designed or does it merely appear designed? Is the evidence of design entirely illusory? Can wholly undirected processes such as natural selection and random mutations produce the intricate design–like structures in living systems? Can natural selection mimic the powers of a Creator-Designer? Can the origin of life be explained purely by reference to material processes such as undirected chemical reactions or random collisions of molecules?

It is not more logical to attribute these amazing scientific facts to the work of a Master Creator, Designer?

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

Genesis 1 (NASB)
1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2 And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.
3 Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

11 Then God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit according to their kind with seed in them”; and it was so.
12 The earth produced vegetation, plants yielding seed according to their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, according to their kind; and God saw that it was good.
13 And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

20 Then God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.”
21 And God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind; and God saw that it was good.
22 God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.”
23 And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

24 Then God said, “Let the earth produce living creatures according to their kind: livestock and crawling things and animals of the earth according to their kind”; and it was so.
25 God made the animals of the earth according to their kind, and the livestock according to their kind, and everything that crawls on the ground according to its kind; and God saw that it was good.

26 Then God said, “Let Us make mankind in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the livestock and over all the earth, and over every crawling thing that crawls on the earth.”
27 So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
29 Then God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you;

30 and to every animal of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to everything that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food"; and it was so.
31 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Genesis 2:7 (NASB)
Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person.

Psalm 139:13-14 (NASB)
13 For You created my innermost parts; You wove me in my mother's womb.
14 I will give thanks to You, because I am awesomely and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.

Psalm 104:30 (NASB)
You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground.

Isaiah 42:5 (NASB)
This is what God the LORD says, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it:

Revelation 4:11 (NASB)
"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

References:
Evolution's Achilles' Heels, Robert Carter, Editor, 2014 by Creation Ministries International, Inc, USA
In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood - Dr. Walt Brown (8th Edition)
https://www.creationscience.com/onlinebook/IntheBeginningTOC.html
https://answersingenesis.org/
https://www.genome.gov/genetics-glossary

SALVATION CALL (BY YOUR FREE CHOICE AND FREE WILL)
If you ask, does God love me? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 3:16, Romans 5:8

If you ask, how can I have my sins forgiven? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:2,12
If you ask, what is the way to God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 14:6
If you ask, how can I become a child of God? We can tell you what the Bible says: John 1:12
If you ask, where can I find salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 4:12
If you ask, what must I do to experience salvation? We can tell you what the Bible says: Acts 16:30-31
As an act of your own free choice, we invite you to make this decision to follow Jesus.

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads

LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday October 02, 2022
Faith and Science
Part 5: Origin of the Species

The is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation
To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our sermons page . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome
The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word
Read the following Scripture references: *Genesis 2:7; Psalm 139:13-14; Revelation 4:11*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together
Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Take time to reflect on human beings as God's creation. (A) What are thing things that amaze you about us human – our design, our place on the planet, etc. (B)How do these reflect and point to a Creator God? (C)How can we created beings, bring glory and honor to our Creator God?

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey
Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another
Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:
1, families to be protected and strengthened
2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.
3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.

Close by thanking God together.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.
YOUTUBE: https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore
WEBSITE: https://apcwo.org/live

Our other websites and free resources:
CHURCH: https://apcwo.org
FREE SERMONS: https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons
FREE BOOKS: https://apcwo.org/books/english
DAILY DEVOTIONALS: https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional
JESUS CHRIST: https://examiningjesus.com
BIBLE COLLEGE: https://apcbiblecollege.org
E-LEARNING: https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn
WEEKEND SCHOOLS: https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools
COUNSELING: https://chrysalislife.org
MUSIC: https://apcmusic.org
MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: https://pamfi.org
CHURCH APP: https://apcwo.org/app
CHURCHES: https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches
WORLD MISSIONS: https://apcworldmissions.org

SERMON OUTLINE

In this sermon series on faith and science, our intent is to address some of the common questions that arise in conversations around faith and science. Questions about the existence of God, origin of this universe, origin of life, the creation account as given in the book of Genesis in the Bible, and faith and science – is it possible to be a person of faith, while engaging in science, and so on? Our goal is to address these questions in as simple a manner as possible and share information that will be useful. This is a five-part sermon series. Part-1: Can Science explain it all? Part-2: The Six days of Genesis. Part-3: Origins of the Cosmos. Part-4: Creator God? Part-5: Origin of the Species.

In this sermon we provide a brief about the theory of evolution and present some questions and challenges unanswered by evolution theory.

KEYWORDS

Faith and science, religion and reason, creator God, cosmology, evolutionary biology, Genesis, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

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